

CD 2012--12



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MUSIC

2011-12 SEASON

Thursday, February 9, 2012  
12:10 pm. Walter Hall

THURSDAYS AT NOON

**AACH! American Composers**

Max Christie, bass clarinet, clarinet

Wallace Halladay, baritone saxophone, alto saxophone

Midori Koga, piano

PROGRAM

1. **Pit Band (1993)**

for baritone saxophone, bass clarinet and piano

**William Albright**

(1944 – 1998)

2. **Tax**

3. **Gra (1993)**

for clarinet

**Elliott Carter**

(b. 1908)

4. **We Speak Etruscan (1992)**

for bass clarinet and alto saxophone

**Lee Hyla**

(b. 1952)

5. **Sonata (1984)**

for alto saxophone and piano

i) Two-Part Invention

6. ii) La follia nuova: a lament for George Cacioppo

7. iii) Scherzo "Will o' the wisp"

8. iv) Recitative and Dance

**William Albright**

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*Next on Thursdays at Noon*

**February 16, 2012**

**Spotlight on Opera**

A preview of the Opera Division's production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, with excerpts performed by cast members.

## PROGRAM NOTES

### *Pit Band* (1993) - WILLIAM ALBRIGHT (1944-1998)

*Pit Band*, with its unusual ensemble of three haphazard instruments – a pick-up band – attempts to digest an evening-long musical comedy in a few minutes. The programme is as follows: Tune-up and Introduction...Overture...Opening Number...Vamps and Screams ("Nessun Dorma")...Love Song...Waltz...alla Marcia...Fox-Trot and Shimmies...Finale.

### *Gra* (1993) - ELLIOT CARTER (b.1908)

Elliot Carter writes: "GRA ('Play' in Polish) for solo clarinet, was written as a tribute to my dear friend, Witold Lutoslawski, to commemorate his 80th birthday. During the twenty-five or so years that I have known Witold, I have never ceased to admire his impressive works and his gracious personality. This clarinet piece combines frequently changing, playful characters together (all based on the same material) and recalls to me my many delighted visits with the composer in America and Poland."

### *We Speak Etruscan* (1992) - LEE HYLIA (b. 1952)

This work is a result of the composer's residency in Italy after winning the Prix du Rome. It is dedicated to Tim Smith and Tim Berne who premiered the work in Boston, and also to Norm Roberson, a tour guide at the American Academy in

Rome and "Etruscan enthusiast." The ancient Etruscans spoke a language that is now lost, and the piece's ironic title is reflected in the multilayered and "schizophrenic" musical materials. Written for baritone sax and bass clarinet, the work oscillates between jagged, jazz-like riffs and static, ancient counterpoint.

### *Sonata* (1984) - WILLIAM ALBRIGHT

Now a staple of the saxophone repertoire, Albright's *Sonata* may be his most performed work. Albright's music combines classical structure with elements of lyricism and jazz: elements that make this polystylistic composer quintessentially American. His many years at the University of Michigan – where perhaps the strongest saxophone studio in the U.S. still resides – undoubtedly contributed to the development and difficulty of the work.

Albright writes: "Of all the movements, the second perhaps most deserves comment. This movement is dedicated to the memory of George Cacioppo who died unexpectedly on April 8, 1984...He would have very much appreciated the use of the traditional title "La follia" (the madness) in my reincarnation as "La follia nuova." Like its Baroque antecedents, the movement is in a chaconne-variation form, although at one point the sections jumble together, or intersect. The fact that the key is *f#* minor may be important, or it may not be."

## BIOGRAPHIES

Clarinetist **MAX CHRISTIE** is recognized as one of Canada's most capable and adept performers of contemporary music. He has recorded the works of Harry Somers, Brian Current, Melissa Hui, Rudolph Komouros, Brian Cherney and many other prominent composers. His CDs include MC McGuire's double concerto for clarinet and oboe, "Spawn of Abe", and "Gra" for solo clarinet by Elliott Carter, available on the Naxos label.

He is a member of Continuum Contemporary Ensemble which works on the broadest and most eclectic array of contemporary compositions. As a member of New Music Concerts ensemble he has worked with some of the most celebrated composers on the international scene, including Pierre Boulez, Heinz Holliger, Roger Reynolds, and Elliot Carter.

He has for nearly 20 years been the Principal Clarinet of the National Ballet Orchestra, performing in the pit some of the most beloved music of the classical repertoire.

Saxophonist **WALLACE HALLADAY** captures the qualities of the modern virtuoso, being at home in numerous styles, from the traditional to jazz and beyond. A specialist in the performance of contemporary music, he has commissioned and premiered numerous works. A soloist with the Vancouver Symphony and Esprit Orchestras, he also inaugurated the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony's "Intersections" Series. He recently worked with Philippe Leroux on the North American

premiere of his saxophone concerto in Montréal. He recorded the two saxophone Sequenzas of Berio and the Colgrass concerto for NAXOS and is in demand as a performer with new music groups across Canada and the US. Wallace holds a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music, and studied at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam with Arno Bornkamp. Wallace was the 2009 recipient of the prestigious Virginia Parker Prize from the Canada Council for the Arts, being the first woodwind player to be awarded in its 25-year history. Wallace is a Conn-Selmer Artist and plays Selmer (Paris) saxophones.

With performances described as "passionate" (*Ann Arbor News*) and "terrific" (*St. Petersburg Times*), pianist **MIDORI KOGA** has been featured as soloist and chamber musician throughout the world, including appearances at the American New Arts Festival, the Al Fresno New Music Festival, the ProMozart Society of Detroit, the World Saxophone Congress in Valencia Spain, and the International Computer Music Festival. Chamber music collaborations include those with the internationally acclaimed percussion ensemble NEXUS, Soundstreams Ensemble, with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and the Toronto Wind Quintet. In addition, she has performed with the Esprit Orchestra, and the TSO in their New Creations Festival. Midori Koga, currently serves as Associate Professor of Piano and Director of Piano Pedagogy at the University of Toronto.